

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

STACY CROOKS,

Plaintiff,

v.

NATIONAL CREDIT SYSTEMS, *et al.*

Defendants.

Case No. 1:22-cv-00886-JLT-CDB

ORDER SETTING SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCE, PARAMETERS AND
SCHEDULING PRE-CONFERENCE
TELEPHONIC DISCUSSION

Settlement Statements due:	May 3, 2023
Pre-Settlement Conference:	May 10, 2023
Settlement Conference:	May 17, 2023 10:30am

Based on the parties' joint status report (Doc. 36), Magistrate Judge Christopher D. Baker will hold a settlement conference on **May 17, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.** Unless the parties request the conference to be in-person, the Court will conduct the settlement conference via video conference. The Zoom settlement conference invitation will be distributed the week prior.¹ The Court expects the parties will proceed with the settlement conference in good faith and attempt to resolve all or part of the case. If any party believes that the settlement conference will not be productive, that party shall so inform the court as far in advance of the settlement conference as possible.

¹ Any difficulties concerning Zoom video conference, or connecting to the Zoom video conference, shall immediately be reported to Susan Hall, Courtroom Deputy for Magistrate Judge Baker, at SHall@caed.uscourts.gov.

1 Unless otherwise permitted in advance by the court, the following individuals must attend
2 the settlement conference: (1) all of the attorney(s) who will try the case; and (2) individuals with
3 full authority to negotiate and settle the case, on any terms. *See* Local Rule 270(f).

4 **No later than May 3, 2023**, each party must submit to Magistrate Judge Baker's chambers
5 at CDBorders@caed.uscourts.gov a confidential settlement conference statement. These
6 statements should neither be filed on the docket nor served on any other party.

7 In compliance with Local Rule 270(d)-(e), the settlement statements will be used
8 exclusively for the undersigned to prepare for and conduct the settlement conference. They will
9 not become part of the case file and will be shred thereafter under Local Rule 270(e). If applicable,
10 the statements should be marked "CONFIDENTIAL." *See* Local Rule 270(d).

11 The statements should not exceed ten (10) pages and should include:

12 (1) a brief recitation of the facts;

13 (2) a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the case, including the parties' relevant
14 position on the factual and legal issues and brief review of the evidence to support the parties'
15 factual position;

16 (3) an itemized estimate of the expected costs for further discovery, pretrial, and trial
17 matters, in specific dollar terms;

18 (4) your best estimate of the probability that plaintiff will prevail should this case proceed
19 to trial;

20 (5) your best estimate of the damages or relief plaintiff may recover should this case proceed
21 to trial and plaintiff prevail (in specific dollar terms and/or injunctive relief, if applicable);

22 (6) a history of settlement discussions (including a listing of any current settlement offers
23 from any party, in specific dollar terms), a candid statement of your party's current position on
24 settlement, including **the amount that you will give/accept to settle** (in specific dollar terms), and
25 a statement of your expectations for settlement discussions;

26 (7) a list of the individuals who will be attending the settlement on the party's behalf,
27 including names and, if appropriate, titles.
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1 At the outset of the settlement conference, the undersigned may call upon the parties'
2 counsel to give a brief (five-minute) opening presentation outlining the factual and legal highlights
3 of their case before the parties break into separate caucuses. The undersigned reserves the right to
4 dispense with the opening presentations of counsel if the undersigned determines that such
5 presentations are not likely to be productive.

6 Notwithstanding the provisions of Federal Rule of Evidence 408, all statements made by
7 the parties relating to the substance or merits of the case, whether written or oral, made for the first
8 time during the settlement conference will be deemed to be confidential and shall not be admissible
9 in evidence for any reason in the trial of the case, should the case not settle. This provision does
10 not preclude admissibility in other contexts, such as pertaining to a motion for sanctions regarding
11 the settlement conference.

12 Judge Baker will hold a short, telephonic pre-settlement conference on **May 10, 2023, at**
13 **10:00 a.m.** (dial-in number: 1-877-402-9757, Access Code 6966236). Only the lead attorney from
14 each side² should participate. At Judge Baker's discretion, the telephonic conference may be
15 followed by private telephonic discussions between the judge and each party.

16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 Dated: **March 20, 2023**

18 
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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² The Court expects that the attorneys participating in the telephone discussion will also participate in the settlement conference.